

For the Classroom – Formation in Christian Chastity, Grade 5

Lesson Plan 2

Theme: God Made Us To Know The Truth

Objectives:

1. Students will know that Jesus wants us to know Him and follow the truth.
2. Students will have a greater understanding of how we can live out the truth through the virtue of chastity.
3. Students will demonstrate an appreciation for how our bodies are an expression of the truth of our dignity as adopted sons and daughters of God.

Tell the children you will tell them a story about a woman who knew God's truth and acted on it. Then, tell the story of St. Gianna Beretta Molla which follows.

St. Gianna Beretta Molla:

St. Gianna Beretta Molla was a devoted, pious, and loving wife, mother, and doctor who lived in Italy. In 1962, while she was pregnant with her fourth child, a doctor discovered that Gianna had cancer. The doctor recommended abortion, but Gianna refused. Shortly after giving birth she died from complications. As a result of her heroic sacrifice, St. Gianna is considered a patron saint of the pro-life movement.

Opening Prayer: Dear Saint Gianna, you showed the power of a mother's love. You sacrificed your own life, so that your baby daughter might live. Please intercede for us and all our unborn brothers and sisters. We ask that all mothers will choose life for their unborn children, as you did, and that each child will be respected and protected, the way that you cherished your own children. Amen.

Review:

So far, we've learned what truth is, that Jesus embodies truth and is Truth, and how we can know the truth. We have also learned that we could live out the truth by going to Mass every Sunday and holy day of obligation, going to the sacrament of Penance frequently, praying every day, and following the commandments. Finally, we learned that everyone has dignity because we are all made in God's image and likeness and that we are His sons and daughters. Now we turn to what our conscience is and how we can correctly form our conscience in the truth. We will also focus on the truth that everyone has dignity because we are all made in the image and likeness of God. Because of this we must respect every human being and work to protect the life of every person from conception until natural death.

(The following quotations from Scripture, quotations from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and the “Key Concepts” are reproduced at the end of this Lesson for your distribution to your students. Have the children take turns reading them aloud.)

Quotation from Sacred Scripture:

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you. (Jeremiah 1:5)

Quotation from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (2270):

Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person--among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life.

“Key Concepts” Reading:

The proper formation of conscience respect for human life.

God gives each of us a conscience, which is His inner voice that inspires us to do good and avoid evil (CCC 1795). Our conscience helps us to identify the near occasions of sin, which are the persons, places, and things, that so easily lead to sin. We need to do our part to form our consciences correctly. We can do this by listening to God’s Word, through prayer, by going to Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation, by frequently going to Confession, by following the teachings of the Church, and by obeying our parents.

The first and most important way in which we demonstrate respect for ourselves and others is by upholding the right to life. Every human being is a gift from God to be cherished from conception to natural death. Abortion is the deliberate killing of an unborn child and is, therefore, a grave sin.

We have a duty to care for the sick and the suffering. We must never kill a sick or suffering person in the name of compassion. This is called “euthanasia,” which is a grave violation of the fifth commandment. Again, all persons have the right to life—from conception until natural death. We must pray for those who harm themselves or others through abortion or euthanasia, or by supporting abortion and euthanasia.

(Teacher’s Note: All biological concepts and related questions are to be covered at home by the parents of the child.)

Discussion Questions:

Question: What can you do to show respect for human life?

Answer: Pray for an end to abortion and euthanasia; practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy; speak up for life when you see someone advocating a stance which is contrary to the right to life, etc. We also show respect for life when we treat our classmates with respect and kindness.

Question: In what ways can you show how much you value other people, especially younger children?

Answer: Helping younger students with their homework; collecting food, clothing, and toys for needy families; performing acts of kindness for younger brothers and sisters or other students, etc.

Activity:

Have your students say a Rosary or decade of the Rosary for an end to abortion and in reparation for the sins of abortion. If it is possible to say it in front of the Blessed Sacrament in a church or chapel, that is even better.

Summary:

Our conscience is our guide for helping us to understand what's right and wrong. But in order to form our consciences correctly, we need to listen to God's Word, pray, go to Mass every Sunday and holy day of obligation, go to Confession regularly (once per month is a good practice), follow the teachings of the Church, and obey our parents. Every human being is a gift from God whose life is to be treasured. Abortion is a grave sin, because it involves the deliberate killing of an unborn child. We have an obligation to care for the sick and the suffering. The fifth Commandment forbids murder, including the killing of those who are ill or have physical or mental disabilities. We must pray for those who have died through abortion and euthanasia and for those who have committed these sins. We must pray for the protection of the right to life of every single human being, since every human person is made in the image of God.

Closing Prayer: Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the unborn, pray for us!

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